



National Weather Service

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



January 1996

| Location | Date | Time Local/ Standard | Path Length (Miles) | Path Width (Yards) | Number of Persons Killed | Number of Persons Injured | Estimated Damage Property | Estimated Damage Crops | Character of Storm |
|----------|------|----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|
|----------|------|----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|

ILLINOIS, Northwest

ILZ001>002-007-009- Jo Daviess - Stephenson - Carroll - Whiteside - Rock Island - Henry - Bureau - Putnam - Mercer - Henderson - Warren -
015>018-024>026-034>035 Hancock - McDonough

18 0430CST 0 0 Winter Storm
2000CST

A powerful cold front steamed through the region around sunrise dropping temperatures 20 degrees in less than half an hour. Temperatures fell from the mid 50s into the teens within a few hours and the single digits below zero that night. 1 to 3 inches of freezing rain, sleet, and snow fell and caused icy roads and disruption of electrical power. Most Schools canceled classes or dismissed early. Many others had trouble getting home with icy roads and difficulty just getting into there cars due to doors and door locks being iced over. Glaze was so thick that Muscatine Postmaster Dyann Roby said "most of the 35 collection boxes were frozen shut"; however other mail services continued.

ILZ001>002-007-009-015- Jo Daviess - Stephenson - Carroll - Whiteside - Rock Island - Mercer
024

26 0400CST 0 0 Winter Storm
27 0400CST

A winter storm system moving northeast over the Mississippi river brought 1 to 3 inches of rain, sleet, and snow to northwestern Illinois. Significant travel problems occurred due to a layer of glaze which came down first and was then covered by 2 to 3 inches of snow. 20 to 30 mph winds caused blowing and drifting and limited visibilities.

ILZ001>002-007-009- Jo Daviess - Stephenson - Carroll - Whiteside - Rock Island - Henry - Bureau - Putnam - Mercer - Henderson - Warren -
015>018-024>026-034>035 Hancock - McDonough

30 2000CST 0 0 Extreme Cold
31 2359CST

After Winter Storms on the 19th and 26th a blanket of snow lay across much the area north of I80. A re-enforcing shot of cold air pushed over the area on the 30th and took temperatures below zero through the first few days of February. All time record low temperatures occurred at many locations during a 6 day period. Record lows ranged from -25 to -32 for 2 to 3 nights with highs reaching only -10 to -15 degrees during the day for 2 to 3 days.

IOWA, East Central and Southeast

IAZ040>042-051>054- Buchanan - Delaware - Dubuque - Benton - Linn - Jones - Jackson - Iowa - Johnson - Cedar - Clinton - Muscatine - Scott -
063>068-076>078- Keokuk - Washington - Louisa - Jefferson - Henry - Des Moines - Van Buren - Lee
087>089-098>099

18 0430CST 0 0 Heavy Snow
2000CST

A powerful cold front steamed through the region around sunrise dropping temperatures 20 degrees in less than half an hour. Temperatures fell from the mid 50s into the teens within a few hours and into the single digits below zero that night. Near "white-out" conditions occurred with 3-6 inches of snow. The greatest snowfall occurred across central Iowa with lesser amounts toward the Mississippi. Strong winds throughout the day dropped wind chill temperatures into the 40 to 50 below zero range.

The heavy, blowing, and drifting snow caused most schools to close with many businesses and shopping malls closing early. Surprisingly few accidents occurred on the 18th "because with all the cancellations many people have been staying in", said Sgt. Craig Lihs of the Iowa City Police Dept.

IAZ040>042-051>054- Buchanan - Delaware - Dubuque - Benton - Linn - Jones - Jackson - Iowa - Johnson - Cedar - Clinton - Muscatine -
063>067-076>078- Keokuk - Washington - Louisa - Jefferson - Henry - Des Moines - Van Buren - Lee
087>089-098>099

26 0400CST 0 0 Winter Storm
27 0400CST

A winter storm system moving northeast over the Mississippi river brought nearly 10 inches of snow to portions of east central



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IOWA, East Central and Southeast

Iowa, with snowfall diminishing to 3-6 inches near the Mississippi river. Schools were cancelled due to extreme blowing and drifting of snow. During the afternoon and evening winds of 20 to 30 mph became even stronger and the Winter Storm Warning was upgraded to a Blizzard Warning for many Iowa counties. Numerous motorists were stranded on highways and interstates and a State of Emergency was declared, by the Governor. The State of Emergency mobilized National Guard units to assist local Law Enforcement in the rescue of stranded motorists.

In Cedar Rapids this Winter Storm was followed by a 3 day clean up. This effort was estimated by Don Thomas, the Cedar Rapids Commissioner of Streets, to have cost \$100,000 and required 60 persons to work around the clock.

Schools were either closed early or cancelled on this Friday the 26th, and despite massive clean up efforts, most schools remained closed on Monday. Those schools that did try to go on the 26th experienced significant problems. In Mount Vernon, schools were on a delayed start. The busses were then sent out but as the weather continued to worsen, the decision was made to cancel school. So before the busses made it to school they were returning children to their homes. One bus, after cancellation, about 845 am slid off the snowy road into the ditch. No children were injured and a second bus was sent out to take them home.

IAZ040>042-051>054-
063>064

Buchanan - Delaware - Dubuque - Benton - Linn - Jones - Jackson - Iowa - Johnson

| | | | | |
|-----------|----------------|----------|----------|-----------------|
| 26 | 1410CST | 0 | 0 | Blizzard |
| 27 | 0400CST | | | |

A Blizzard Warning was issued in the middle of a major winter storm as winds which had been 20-30 mph were forecast to increase into the 30 to 40 mph range with gusts to 50 mph. This combined with continued heavy snow (see the Winter Storm for the same time) produced extreme blowing and drifting of snow. A State of Emergency was issued by the Governor of Iowa. This brought the aid of the Iowa National Guard to local Law Enforcement, which was already involved in rescuing numerous stranded motorists.

Mount Vernon tried to go with a late start on schools. While the busses were out to pick up the children, the weather continued to worsen. Before the children made it to school, school was cancelled and all the busses were told to begin to take the children back home. At about 845 am, while trying to stop at the intersection, one school bus slid off the snow-covered road into the ditch. No children were injured and a second bus was sent to take the children home.

Iowa State Climatologist, Harry Hillaker, called this the worst blizzard for central Iowa since April 8-9th 1973.

Cedar Rapids was hard hit by the blizzard and a three day, round the clock, clean up effort followed after the blizzard. Don Thomas, the Cedar Rapids Commissioner of Streets, estimated the cost of the clean up at \$100,000.

IAZ040>042-051>054-
063>068-076>078-
087>089-098>099

Buchanan - Delaware - Dubuque - Benton - Linn - Jones - Jackson - Iowa - Johnson - Cedar - Clinton - Muscatine - Scott - Keokuk - Washington - Louisa - Jefferson - Henry - Des Moines - Van Buren - Lee

| | | | | |
|-----------|----------------|----------|----------|---------------------|
| 30 | 2000CST | 0 | 0 | Extreme Cold |
| 31 | 2359CST | | | |

After major winter storms on the 19th and 26th a blanket of thick snow lay across much of the area. A re-enforcing shot of cold air pushed over the area on the 30th and took temperatures below zero through the first few days of February. All time record low temperatures occurred at many locations during a 6 day period. Record lows ranged from -25 to -32 for 2 to 3 nights, with highs reaching only -10 to -15 degrees during the day for 2 to 3 days.

WISCONSIN, Extreme Southwest

NONE REPORTED.